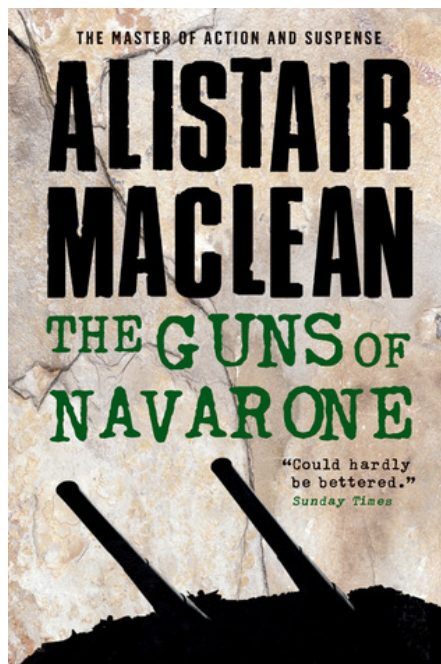




The Guns of Navarone

Alistair MacLean

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An entire navy had tried to silence the guns of Navarone and failed. Full-scale attacks had been driven back. Now they were sending in just five men, each one a specialist in dealing death.

The Guns of Navarone Details

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From Reader Review The Guns of Navarone for online ebook

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

4.5 Stars

Quite by accident I picked this up and started reading. From the first page, the esteemed war thriller author, Alistair MacLean, engages his reader. Off the coast of Turkey in the Aegean Sea the Germans and Italians control a cluster of islands and the area shipping lanes. On one island 1200 British soldiers are trapped and will soon be attacked by the Axis Alliance. The destruction of the mighty Guns of Navarone is the only hope these Brits have. It is a suicide mission. The guns are protected by both nature and man in their fortress. But a savvy military strategist may have found the how and who to silence these great guns.

Captain Keith Mallory is legendary. The New Zealander is a renowned rock climber and knows how to survive behind enemy lines. His faithful friend (and his good luck charm) Andreas is a Greek resistance fighter has no qualms killing Germans. The young Stevens is proficient in German and Greek is also a great climber, but is afraid of his fear. American Corporal Miller is a demolitions specialist and Brown is known for his saboteur skills. They have 3 days to scale the sheer 400 foot cliffs on the southern side of Navarone, destroy the guns, and get out before the British fleet sails into the Aegean channel to fortify the trapped soldiers. After the climb that almost killed them, the team believes the hardest part of the mission is behind them. But the Navarone fortress proves to be as great of a challenge as the cliffs. They have to choose but to destroy those guns. Many men's lives are dependent upon their success. And they will die trying to accomplish the mission.

MacLean is a master story teller with intimate knowledge of the military. He served on a cruiser in WWII while serving in the Royal Navy. His writing is fast paced with a great detail that does not bough down the story line. His twists are like gentle waves. They don't jar the reader. The twists and turns just seem part of the story as its natural progression. Mallory and his team are well characterized. This reader liked and cared about them. Often I caught myself holding my breath as I read the book. In my opinion, the 1961 movie *Guns of Navarone* just put faces to these wonderful characters. The drama is in the book. Though the film is dramatic and viewers are reminded of the tight time line Gregory Peck, David Niven, and Anthony Quinn have. The book is deeper. The drama and action is more complete due to MacLean's wonderful writing.

Mark says

Tense WWII thriller about a small group of commandos that has to sabotage the naval guns on an island fortress that is otherwise nigh-impregnable.

I think what I liked the most about this is it's not got that modern action movie quality of triumphing in a series of outnumbered gun battles, which gets kind of silly after a while. It's much more about stealth and subterfuge. The other surprising quality, for me, is the prose. MacLean really gets you feeling like the wind and rain are lashing you as you climb the cliff that cannot be scaled, or shivering cold as snow falls outside while you're sheltering in some remote mountain cave.

The Germans are not all nasty and cruel, which I also appreciated. It's almost too easy to make the antagonists nothing but hardcore SS scumbags. There are some scumbag Germans to be found here, but the meeting for the Alpinekorps lieutenant and Mallory is pretty good stuff. These guys might have been friends

if war didn't put them on opposite sides, and this was handled well. Very good stuff all around.

I felt like I was following the action pretty well until the final escape, at which point either I lost my ability to comprehend things or the narrative became much more confusing as far as how all of the characters got back together and sailed away. That's probably all that's keeping this from a five-star rating.

Tagged with Maryland vanity because the lone American character, who happens to have to do some emergency field medical stuff, declares that one would not find finer care at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Lines like that are why the Maryland vanity shelf exists.

DeAnna Knippling says

Wonderful :) Beautifully plotted, characterized, and twisted. Cannot speak too well of this one; highly recommend.

Erik says

finally read this classic tale of heroism. action packed. very well plotted. recommended :-)

Bob Mayer says

A classic thriller. MacLean always delivered the goods. I remember devouring all of his titles out of the library. I wouldn't suggest doing them in a row, because things can get a little repetitive. But that's to be expected of almost any author.

The concept, of having a team as the only way to take out the guns guarding a narrow straight through which the ships needed to rescue troops, have to traverse is a bit forced. But it does lend to a tight thriller with a clock ticking.

What's best about this book is the interplay among the various agents and then the locals. Betrayal and double-crosses keep the plot moving.

J. Moore says

This is one of the books that took me at the edge of my seat. The action felt so real. I'm thankful that a friend recommended this to me.

David Evans says

When I was 12 or so, one of my friends at school (Michael Edworthy) used to bring this book along every day as a sort of badge along with his Who and Yes albums. He couldn't have been reading it otherwise he'd

have finished it rapidly. We were all careful never to mention the book in case he went on about it like he did about the bands. Intrigued, I bought a copy and read the first of the many Alistair MacLean books I was to devour. Set in WW2 this is story-telling for boys of the highest calibre (Ha! what a pun... I've just noticed): a hand-picked group of elite soldiers have to disable the heavily guarded monstrous weapons that cover a strait of water shortly to be traversed by an allied shipping convoy. Simple.

The usual early MacLean trademarks are all here: a mission with small chance of success; fifth columnist infiltration; self-sacrifice that brings tears of pride and edge of the seat tension and action. (See "Where Eagles Dare", "HMS Ulysses") No wonder Hollywood adapted it with Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn et al. But, as is so often the case, the book is even better than the film.

Oh, and I adapted it many times for English essays so my O'Level grade A is down to this plot.

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

Book bum club #1

A Book for all Seasons topic: Book became a movie

Jordan says

Another one I read in high school after seeing the movie a couple dozen times. A good example of decent source material elevated in the adaptation—an effective but fairly standard thriller that was turned into one of the most thrilling and morally serious meditations on war in the twentieth century.

NB—Avoid the sequel, *Force 10 from Navarone*, at all costs. It's the only sequel MacLean ever wrote and it's apparent why.

Oliver Clarke says

As thrilling and two fistedly action packed as you'd expect a war story that has maintained its popularity for so long to be. This has undeniably two dimensional but still entertaining characters, a wonderful variety of life it death scenarios (mountain climbing, storms at sea, gun fights against impossible odds) and a solid plot that holds it all together nicely.

Ed says

I saw the movie on TV back in the 1960s. Quinn, Peck, and Niven made for an all-star cast. Finally, I read the novel. Well, sir, I'm happy to report that Alistair MacLean could tell the corker of a tale. The Allied saboteurs come through lots of close shaves still intact. At times their heroics leave you rolling your eyes a little, but the fun is watching them strive to carry out their desperate mission. There are betrayals. The pace is snappy, the suspense builds well, and the characters feel full-fledged. I found myself looking forward to getting back to reading the war tale which isn't my usual cup of tea. Your mileage may vary, of course, but I just wanted some diverting entertainment which I found here in spades.

Leslie says

According to Wikipedia,

"The Greek island of Navarone does not exist and the plot is fictitious; however, the story takes place within the real historical context of the Dodecanese Campaign, the Allies' campaign to capture the German-held Greek islands in the Aegean Sea in 1943. The story is based on the Battle of Leros, and Leros island's coastal artillery guns – among the largest naval artillery guns used during World War II – that were built and used by the Italians until Italy capitulated in 1943 and subsequently used by the Germans until their defeat."

I have seen the film version a few times but found the book more interesting, in part because the reader is given the thoughts of various characters along the way which changed my feeling about some of them. In the book, all the characters are male - I can understand why the 2 natives of Navarone were changed to women in the movie but the story makes more sense this way. Of course, having seen the movie removed some of the tension from the book as I knew what was coming; I admire the way MacLean gives the reader clues to what will come very subtly, almost like Agatha Christie!

The-vault says

By Alistair Maclean. #1 of the Navarone series. Grade: A

Alistair Maclean is probably one of the most famous fiction authors of all time. He is possibly the world's best war fiction novelist with novels like *Where Eagles Dare* under his belt. *The Guns of Navarone* has been made into a very successful, classic feature film of the same name.

Twelve hundred British soldiers are isolated and waiting on the small island of Kheros, off the Turkish coast. All these lives could be saved if only the vigilant, savage and catastrophically accurate guns of Navarone could be silenced. Navarone itself is a grim iron fortress, manned by a mixed garrison of Germans and Italians. To Captain Keith Mallory, skilled saboteur and trained mountaineer, falls the task of leading the small party to scale the vast, impossible precipice of Navarone to blow up the guns.

The novel is set during the World War II at a time when the balance of things in the Turkish coast across the Aegean lies in a thin balance. The Axis powers of Germany and Italy have gained control over a cluster of islands and there is a battalion of the Allied army trapped in an island near the stronghold of the Axis forces. Any and every attack on the fortress is foiled by the devastating guns of Navarone. The only way to stop the imminent defeat and the almost certain death of twelve hundred British soldiers is to remove the threat of these guns of Navarone. When the men behind the curtain are stymied, they stumble upon a solution: a solution so unlikely to succeed that it would require just a minor twist of fate to send all those lives down the drain. It is this suicide mission which is handed over to Captain Keith Mallory. Captain Mallory, before his army days, was known as the best mountaineer ever to be produced by New Zealand and in his army days, known to be a man who could survive even behind enemy lines.

Captain Mallory and his team then set off on this mission-of-no-return in order to destroy the guns of Navarone. Crossing the precipice on the southern side of Navarone which almost killed them, they succeed in breaching the almost impregnable grim fortress of Navarone. The only task left now is to silence the guns of Navarone. The question is – will they be able to do it and in the process, not lose their lives?

Alistair Maclean is the acclaimed master of the genre of war fiction. It is in every way reflected in *The Guns of Navarone*. The writing style is really slick, the novel is very pacey yet detailed and the storyline is very tight. The twists are so well intertwined yet so well-spaced that they do not tend to over-suffocate the inherent storyline. The timeline and the background are so well put to use that they almost become integral

characters of the plot. One unique thing about the novel is that it is set during a period of three days and that very fact is so well mixed up with the storyline that you don't feel as if it is completed within those very three days. The central characters of Captain Mallory, Andrea and the rest of his team are really well-sketched and they truly come across as heroes. The sequences when the team is stuck and the way they come out of those situations, it was as if Alistair Maclean had himself orchestrated the war. Overall, if you take The Guns of Navarone, know that you have a classic in your hands. Do not miss it.

Originally reviewed at: www.the-vault.co.cc

Benjamin Thomas says

During World War II, five men are recruited to achieve the impossible: destroy a German fortress that threatens Allied Naval operations in the Aegean Sea and prevents over 1,200 isolated British soldiers from being rescued. These five men are all experts at various specialties required by the commando operation, including demolitions, engineering, and most provocatively, mountain climbing since access to the fortress is impossible without scaling a sheer cliff face.

Even though the Greek island of Navarone does not actually exist, the story takes place within the real historical context of the "Dodecanese Campaign", (specifically the Battle of Leros), the Allies' attempt to capture the German-held Greek islands in the Aegean Sea in 1943. Only the second novel by Alistair Maclean, this 1957 World War II novel has been considered a classic of the genre for decades now. These days, of course, stories or movies about a handful of talented men, each with specific specialties, teaming up to pull off a near-impossible task are a dime a dozen but I dare say many of them owe quite a bit to this book. In 1961, a classic film was produced starring Gregory Peck, David Niven and Anthony Quinn, among others.

I've read a number of Alistair MacLean books over the years and usually find them OK, but notice they do tend towards the "slow-burn" style, taking quite a while to build to their climax. This one, however, kept me riveted throughout. It's easy to see why this has become a classic: excellent characters, plenty of edge-of-your-seat suspense, and wonderful pacing. MacLean didn't believe in much of a wrap-up after the major climax and this one is no exception. The big story payoff was literally on the last page of the book.

I'm very glad I finally got around to reading this one, and now have my sights set on the sequel, Force 10 from Navarone. I'm also planning to see the Guns of Navarone film this week so as to fill another hole in my WWII film history.

Oliviu Craznic says

În timpul celui de Al Doilea Război Mondial, o echipă de sabotori (printre care un alpinist neozeelandez, un american și un grec gigantic) sunt trimiși să escaladeze o faaleză pentru a distruge două tunuri uriașe, care îi țin pe Aliați la respect.

Alistair MacLean este fără dubiu unul dintre cei mai importanți scriitori ai istoriei omenirii, și încă unul care scrie despre lucruri teribile sau cunoscute din relații la prima mână. Însă atât continuarea acestui roman („Uraganul vine de la Navarone”), cât și „Unde se avântă vulturii” au subiect și personaje similare, fiind însă superioare romanului de față. În concluzie, o carte excelent scrisă, interesantă, dar nu o lectură obligatorie. Remarcabilă ediția de la Editura Litera (2018): excelentă traducerea lui Gabriel Tudor, precum și tehnoredactarea, iar coperta este preluată de la ediția străină la care am adăugat această minirecenzie.

Redactarea este peste medie, dar ar fi putut fi eliminate u?or unele sc?p?ri, prin utilizarea instrumentelor de corectare oferite de programul Word (instrumente pe care majoritatea editurilor române?ti, din motive inexplicabile, refuz? - sau nu ?tiu - s? le foloseasc?).

De asemenea, calitatea hârtiei alese las? de dorit.

Oricum, pe ansamblu, o edi?ie foarte reu?it? a unei c?r?i clasice (ecranizate cu Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn ?i Richard Harris), care merit? aten?ia cititorilor - felicit?ri editurii!
